

A SERVICE IN CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF

**Paul Swift Van Nice**

July 20, 1945 – May 13, 2025



Wednesday, June 11, 2025, at 11 a.m.

**SAINT JOHN'S CHURCH**

---

LAFAYETTE SQUARE • WASHINGTON, DC

*St. John's is a church for people of all races, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations,  
and viewpoints grounded in love. Whoever you are, we welcome you.*



*Welcome to St. John's Church, Lafayette Square.*  
*All are invited to participate in the service as able. Congregational responses appear in **bold**.*

## VOLUNTARY

*Please stand as you are able as the procession enters.*

*Priest* I am Resurrection and I am Life, says the Lord.  
Whoever has faith in me shall have life,  
even though he die.  
And everyone who has life,  
and has committed himself to me in faith,  
shall not die for ever.

As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives  
and that at the last he will stand upon the earth.  
After my awaking, he will raise me up;  
and in my body I shall see God.  
I myself shall see, and my eyes behold him  
who is my friend and not a stranger.

For none of us has life in himself,  
and none becomes his own master when he dies.  
For if we have life, we are alive in the Lord,  
and if we die, we die in the Lord.  
So, then, whether we live or die,  
we are the Lord's possession.

Happy from now on  
are those who die in the Lord!  
So it is, says the Spirit,  
for they rest from their labors.

## COLLECTS

*Priest* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Priest* Let us pray.

O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered: Accept our prayers on behalf of your servant Paul, and grant him an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of your saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding: Deal graciously with Paul's family and friends in their grief. Surround them with your love, that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss, but have confidence in your goodness, and strength to meet the days to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**WELCOME** *Please be seated.*

The Rev. Robert W. Fisher

**REMEMBRANCES**

Cole Van Nice and Scott Van Nice

**HYMN 208** *Sung by all, standing as you are able.*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! The strife is o'er

*Antiphon (at the beginning)*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done, the vic - to -  
2 The powers of death have done their worst, but Christ their  
4 He closed the yawn - ing gates of hell, the bars from  
5 Lord! by the stripes which wound - ed thee, from death's dread

1 ry of life is won; the song of tri - umph  
2 le - gions hath dis - persed: let shout of ho - ly  
4 heaven's high por - tals fell; let hymns of praise his  
5 sting thy serv - ants free, that we may live and

1 has be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!  
2 joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!  
4 tri - umphs tell! Al - le - lu - ia!  
5 sing to thee. Al - le - lu - ia! [Ant.]

*Antiphon (at the end)*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*Ped.*

Words: Latin, 1695; tr. Francis Pott (1832-1909), alt. Music: *Victory*, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525-1594); adapt. and arr. William Henry Monk (1823-1889).

## THE FIRST READING

*Read by Clark Van Nice.*

Isaiah 61:1-3

*Please be seated.*

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

## PSALM 23

*Said in unison by all.*

The LORD is my shepherd; \*  
I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; \*  
he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul; \*  
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his Name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; \*  
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; \*  
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, \*  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

## THE SECOND READING

*Read by Tanner Van Nice.*

Romans 8:34-35, 37-39

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

## ANTHEM

My Shepherd will supply my need

Virgil Thomson (1896–1989)

*Sung by the choir.*

My Shepherd will supply my need; Jehovah is his Name;  
in pastures fresh he makes me feed beside the living stream.  
He brings my wand'ring spirit back when I forsake his ways,  
and leads me, for his mercy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.

When I walk through the shades of death, thy presence is my stay;  
a word of thy supporting breath drives all my fears away.  
Thy hand, in sight of all my foes, doth still my table spread;  
my cup with blessings overflows; thine oil anoints my head.

The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days;  
O may thy house be mine abode, and all my work be praise!  
There would I find a settled rest while others go and come,  
no more a stranger or a guest, but like a child at home.

—Isaac Watts (1674–1748)

## THE THIRD READING

*Read by Jack Reiffer.*

John 14:1-6

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

## THE SERMON

The Rev. Robert W. Fisher

### HYMN 680

O God, our help in ages past

*Sung by all, standing as you are able.*

1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,  
2 un - der the sha - dow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt se - cure;  
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived her frame,  
4 A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight are like an eve - ning gone;  
5 Time, like an ev - er - roll - ing stream, bears all our years a - way;

1 our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:  
2 suf - fi - cient is thine arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.  
3 from ev - er - last - ing thou art God, to end - less years the same.  
4 short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.  
5 they fly, for - got - ten, as a dream dies at the o - pen - ing day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,

be thou our guide while life shall last,  
and our eternal home.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.; para. of Psalm 90. Music: *St. Anne*, melody att. William Croft (1678-1727), alt.; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889).

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

*Said by all, standing as you are able.*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Priest* And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,  
*All* Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as  
we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from  
evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

## THE PRAYERS

*Led by Jack Reiffer.*

*Intercessor* For our brother Paul, let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who said, "I am Resurrection and  
I am Life."

Lord, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to us who mourn for Paul,  
and dry the tears of those who weep.

*People* Hear us, Lord.

*Intercessor* You wept at the grave of Lazarus, your friend; comfort us in our sorrow.

*People* Hear us, Lord.

*Intercessor* You raised the dead to life; give to our brother eternal life.

*People* Hear us, Lord.

*Intercessor* You promised paradise to the thief who repented; bring our brother to the joys of heaven.

*People* Hear us, Lord.



*Intercessor* Our brother was washed in Baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit; give him fellowship with all your saints.

*People* **Hear us, Lord.**

*Intercessor* He was nourished with your Body and Blood; grant him a place at the table in your heavenly kingdom.

*People* **Hear us, Lord.**

*Intercessor* Comfort us in our sorrows at the death of our brother; let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope.

*The priest continues*

Father of all, we pray to you for Paul, and for all those whom we love but see no longer. Grant to them eternal rest. Let light perpetual shine upon them. May his soul and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. **Amen.**

## THE PEACE

*Please stand as you are able.*

*Priest* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

## THE COMMENDATION

*Priest* Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints,

*People* **where sorrow and pain are no more,  
neither sighing, but life everlasting.**

*Priest* You only are immortal, the creator and maker of mankind; and we are mortal, formed of the earth, and to earth shall we return. For so did you ordain when you created me, saying, "You are dust, and to dust you shall return." All of us go down to the dust; yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*People* **Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints,  
where sorrow and pain are no more,  
neither sighing, but life everlasting.**

*Priest* Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Paul. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive him into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. **Amen.**

## THE BLESSING

*Priest* Life is short. And we do not have too much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So be swift to love. Make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## ANTHEM

Jesu, joy of man's desiring

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

*Sung by the choir; please be seated.*

Jesu, joy of man's desiring, holy wisdom, love most bright,  
drawn by thee, our souls aspiring soar to uncreated light.  
Word of God our flesh that fashioned with the fire of life impassioned,  
striving still to truth unknown, soaring, dying, round thy throne.

—*Martin Janus (c. 1620–1682)*

## THE DISMISSAL

*Please stand as you are able.*

*Priest* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## VOLUNTARY

*Following the service, all are invited to a reception at  
Top of the Hay (The Hay-Adams, 800 16th Street, NW).*

---

*If you wish to make a memorial offering to St. John's, you may do so using the QR code or at [bit.ly/sjc-offering](https://bit.ly/sjc-offering).*

---



## ASSISTING AT TODAY'S SERVICE

### CLERGY

The Rev. Robert W. Fisher, *Rector*

### REMEMBRANCES

Cole Van Nice

Scott Van Nice

### READERS

Clark Van Nice

Tanner Van Nice

Jack Reiffer

### MUSICIANS

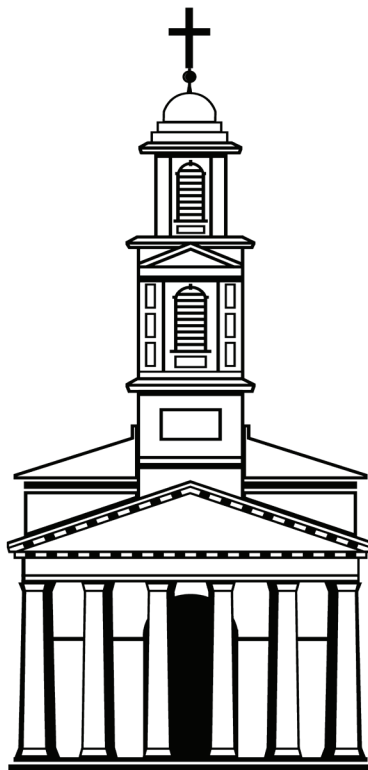
Brent Erstad, *Director of Music and Organist*

Elissa Edwards, Grace Srinivasan, and Tory Wood, *Sopranos*

Rachel Barham, Lisa Koehler, and Charlotte Stewart, *Altos*

David Evans, Robert Hartfield, and Andrew Sauvageau, *Tenors*

Christopher Jones, Nathan Lofton, and Thomas Rust, *Basses*



### **ST. JOHN'S MISSION STATEMENT**

St. John's shines as a beacon of God's love through faith, worship, care, and community,  
and offers a place of grace at our historic corner in the nation's capital.

#### **Parish House**

1525 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005-1005  
(202) 347-8766 ♦ [www.stjohns-dc.org](http://www.stjohns-dc.org)